Issuance of electronic cards to beneficiaries of NREG Scheme

*152. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry is thinking of introducing smart or electronic cards and electronic transfer of money to beneficiaries to make the implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee (NREG) Scheme effective;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry is also proposing a tie-up between banks and post offices to pay wages to the beneficiaries; and

(d) if so, to what extent the proposal at (c) above would help in effective implementation of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Ministry of Rural Development has prepared Operational Guidelines, 2006 for effective implementation of NREG Act by the State Government. These guidelines provides for Information Technology application in the implementation of the Act. Use of smart or electronic cards and electronic transfer of money to the beneficiaries is to be decided by the State Government.

(c) and (d) Payment of wages to the beneficiaries is to be made by the States. Some States are considering tie-up with the banks and post offices for payment of wages to the beneficiaries through the bank/post office accounts.

Food grain export

*153. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise quantum of foodgrains exported during 2002-05; and

(b) the percentage of foodgrains exported out of total exports during above period year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b): The following is the year-wise quantum (quantity and value) of foodgrains exported and its share in total exports during 2002 to 2005:

(Value in Rs. crores)
(Quantity in 000'tonnes)

Year	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05*	2005-06* (April-Nov.06)
Quantity	8745	8109	7923	4604
Value	7682	5957	8866	5585
%age share in total Indian exports (value wise)	2.98	2.37	2.49	2.16

Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics
*Provisional.

Continuance of export-oriented schemes

*154. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE and INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to continue the export-oriented schemes till 2008-09; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry will take steps to ensure that the counterveiling duty is not attracted and the schemes are not misused?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The Export Promotion Schemes being implemented at present essentially aim at providing duty free access to international quality raw materials, intermediates, components, consumables and capital goods required for export production. The Policy and procedural framework for the Export Oriented Schemes is reviewed from time to time and changes made in order to permit better performance of units operating under the Schemes.

(b) The Export Promotion Schemes have various in-built safeguards to prevent their misuse. Some of these are as follows:

(i) Licences issued under Advance Licensing Scheme are subject to actual user condition and are non- transferable.